

JAN 10 1962

Approved For Release 1999/09/16 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200100158-4

MCMNAMARA ASKS ADVICE OF CIVILIANS

Appoints Committee To Aid In Giving Informa- tion To Troops

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(Star Military Correspondent)

Washington, Jan. 9.—With the Senate's Stennis Committee already getting material for its investigation into the Pentagon's "muzzling" of generals and admirals with heterodox views, the Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara today announced appointment of a civilian committee to advise him on what sort of information should be given to the troops.

Simultaneously it became known that ten weeks ago when "muzzling" was charged the Secretary speeded plans for informing the troops of communism's effort to destroy American freedom.

Duties Outlined

The committee is not to concern itself with what the generals and admirals may say in their outside speeches and writings—that being the principal area where "muzzling" by Pentagon censors has been charged. The new group is to consider only the troop information and education programs which the military conducts as part of the training itself.

But the activities which first led Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker into difficulties with his superiors, leading to his reprimand and his voluntary resignation from the Army, were in this very field of troop information. Hence the Stennis Committee is likely to associate the Secretary's present zeal for improving the programs with the prevalence of the committee in the past, in which is to start two

New Post Created

The secretarial interest, however, is not of such recent origin. Last May a new post as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower was created for Edward L. Katzenbach, Jr., a Marine Corps combat veteran, now a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Reserve.

At about the same time the department increased its troop information budget from \$3,600,000 to \$4,100,000, set about organizing a considered program to cover three years rather than one, arranged for sharper emphasis on troop education on communism's threat to American freedom, and improved its pictorial handling of requirements.

Two films, "From Marx to Now" and "Freedom And You," are almost ready for release.

Katzenbach Supported

On October 23, when the Walker case had aroused a good deal of hard feeling in and out of the services, a memorandum from Secretary McNamara formally reminded his civilian and military lieutenants that he was supporting Katzenbach's activities in indoctrination of troops on "the values of our American heritage" and "the threat of communism"

(which had been Walker's own battle cries).

"One of the most important elements of our national strength is the understanding by military personnel of national goals and purposes and the nature of any potential enemy," said the memorandum, which until today had not come to general notice.

"American military personnel must know the positive values of the freedoms which the nation is calling them to defend and the nature of communism which seeks to take these freedoms away."

The committee, headed by Karl R. Bendetsen (formerly Under Secretary of the Army) includes three distinguished retired officers, Adm. Arleigh Burke, of the Navy, Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, of the Army, and Gen. Thomas D. White, of the Air Force, all of whom now are in civilian life. Their colleagues are:

James Phinney Baxter, New York city, (Council on Foreign Relations); Theodore W. Braun, Los Angeles; Prof. Hardy Cross

Dillard, University of Virginia; Allen W. Dulles, Washington (formerly CIA director); T. Keith Glennan, Cleveland, (formerly administrator of NASA); Morris I. Leibman, Chicago; Ralph W. McGill, Atlanta; the Rev. John Courtney Murray, S. J., Woodstock College, Md., and Thomas J. Watson, New York city.

The October memorandum described the Pentagon's own program for educating the United States military as being designed to:

1. "Comprehend the values of our Government and our American heritage."
2. "Be fully aware of the threat of communism."
3. "Understand ideologies inimical to the free institutions upon which the United States is founded."
4. "Realize the responsibilities and objectives of the individual military citizen."

Accordingly it was ordered that the program should thereafter

touch on these specific subjects: "Democracy and communism, world affairs, forces for freedom (United States and friendly military forces), citizenship (including voting), orientation for overseas duty, and the code of conduct."